

Benton Foundation  
1250 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036

September 6, 2011

NOTICE OF EX PARTE

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St. SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Lifeline Link Up Reform and Modernization - WC Docket No. 11-42  
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service – CC Docket No. 96-45  
Lifeline and Link Up – WC Docket No. 03-109**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Tuesday September 6, 2011 Amina Fazlullah of the Benton Foundation<sup>1</sup>, Cheryl Leanza on behalf of the United Church of Christ Office of Communication Inc., Michael Scurato of the National Hispanic Media Coalition, Olivia Wein of the National Consumer Law Center, Sarah Morris and Greta Byrum of the Open Technology Initiative at New America Foundation, and Sean McLaughlin of Access Humboldt joined a conference call with Jamie Susskind, Lisa Hone, and Kim Scardino regarding the above caption Lifeline and Link Up proceedings.

Each group represented reiterated their position (1) against the implementation of a cap or limit with the Lifeline and Link Up programs (2) supporting the program-wide and pilot program implementation of a change to the eligibility income level from 135% to 150% (3) supporting the creation of varied pilot programs (4) supporting the need for careful evaluation of the pilot program (5) supporting the inclusion of broadband as a supported service in the

---

<sup>1</sup> [www.benton.org](http://www.benton.org), Benton Foundation public filings, including but not limited to these reply comments, represent the institutional view of the Foundation as opposed to the views of any individual officer or director.

Universal Service Program (6) supporting a definition of one per household thus including group home and shelter residents (7) that Lifeline and Link Up are “but for” services that provide the most vulnerable Americans with access to communications service. The groups also discussed the need for proper evaluation of the pilots and how large each pilot needs to be to attain quality data for evaluation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Amina Fazlullah  
Policy Counsel  
Benton Foundation